



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

Office of the Bishop

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Christmas 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During Christmas we rejoice in how God's love and mercy for us was manifested as a baby born among us. It's a season where we gather with family and friends in celebration of Jesus' humble yet profound arrival to bring hope, peace, and salvation to all.

Our Savior born on this day is not concerned with the riches and power of this world. He wants us to understand how His joy and peace will be everlasting, no matter what the challenges are that we face. While our homes will be filled with family and friends; lights, decorations and gifts, let us not forget to find quiet times to reflect on what this occasion asks of us.

This Christmas, as we give thanks to God for sending his Son to live among us, to become man and give his life for us on the cross, let us open ourselves like a cradle in a manger and extend His love by joyfully embracing others with kindness and forgiveness.

Through the intercession of Mary our Mother and Saint Joseph, may their Son and our Lord Jesus help us to live as God's holy family at Christmas, throughout the New Year and all the days of our lives.

In the Love of Jesus,

† Luis Rafael Zarama, J.C.L.
Bishop of Raleigh